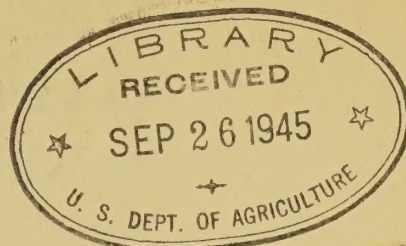
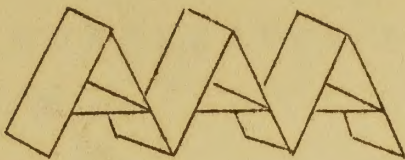


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CONFERENCE NEWS

KANSAS

1941 Conference

Salina, Kansas

January 18, 1941

No. 3



WAKE UP, FELLOW! THAT'S NO DREAM.

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CONFERENCE NEWS

KANSAS

Vol. 3

Published Weekly January 10, 1941

1941 Conference



T O D A Y ' S C O N F E R E N C E P R O G R A M

Chairman, Roy C. Wilson

- 8:00 a.m. Discussion Groups Continue in Session
9:00 a.m. Intermission
9:45 a.m. General Assembly - All Groups (Meet in same places they did
yesterday afternoon)

Reports of Group Discussion by Chairman

- Group I. Crop Insurance
Chairman, A. C. Hansen, Washington County
- Group II. The Commodity Situation and Loans Program
Chairman, H. A. Praeger, Barton County
- Group III. Special Programs in Operation in Designated
Areas in Kansas
Chairman, R. P. Dotzour, Stanton County
- Group IV. Administration
Chairman, Walter J. Trachsel, Sherman County
- Group V. The Effect of Yields and Acreage Allotments
as Now Established if Marketing Quotas Go
into Effect
Chairman, Roy Russell, Stafford County
- Group VI. Best Ways of Acquainting Farmers and Business-
men with the AAA Program
Chairman, R. H. Tucker, Bourbon County

12:00 Noon Lunch

1:15 p.m. Summary of Conference

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WELCOME OUT OF STATE VISITORS

C. M. Hunter, Commodity Credit Corporation, Chicago, Illinois
W. B. Lathrop, Commodity Credit Corporation, Kansas City, Missouri
M. A. Bell, Supt. USDA Experiment Station, Woodward, Oklahoma
Art Cummings, Branch Manager, Federal Crop Ins. Corp., Kansas City, Mo.
Al Silvers, Representative, Federal Crop Ins. Corp., Kansas City, Mo.
Theodore Perry, Representative, Federal Crop Ins. Corp., Kansas City, Mo.

Scott

This exhibit tells us that the sugar beet program encourages more efficient production by: (1) seeding legumes; (2) maintaining legumes; (3) applying manure; and (4) applying commercial fertilizer. There is an illustrated chart to show the results of commercial fertilizer on sugar beets.

We wish to thank the counties who have cooperated in making this display of educational exhibits so successful. Other counties should be able to get ideas that they can work up at home and display in their own office or in merchant's windows.

LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE WENT OVER WITH A BANG!

The "Little Red Schoolhouse" meeting was a "whale of a success" judging from the enthusiastic comments heard during the intermission that followed. Perhaps the reason why was because County Agent Williams, County Committeeman Norton, and Community Committeeman Beecraft got right down to fundamentals when they talked about the 1941 program. They didn't waste any time. They told the group just what was facing agriculture.

Chairman Winter did a wonderful job of summing things up and he kept the meeting running on schedule which is something too many chairmen neglect.

Committeeman Norton dramatized this whole farm program by telling the story of the Island of St. John; how in 1690, Danish merchantmen discovered the Island and established a profitable sugar industry. Later, because of depletion farming and no attention to a long time stabilized agricultural program, the Island was so depleted that it could no longer produce sugar cane. Now the few inhabitants live in a semi-wild condition or are on some kind of relief. Norton's presentation clearly visualized what can happen if agriculture thinks only of exploitation for immediate profit.

Even the county agents admitted that L. C. Williams did a pretty good job of outlining the Kansas agricultural situation and its relation to farm income. According to Williams, there is a 15 billion dollar increase possible in our national income due to the defense program. He went ahead to say that 20 percent of the national income is the normal percentage spent for food which gives us a right to expect that agriculture might expect an additional 3 million dollars spent on its food products during 1941. Williams went on to picture the probable effect on agriculture of the war and defense program and the various changed economic conditions that will result. Then he got down to the Kansas situation and told how these conditions will effect us out here in the wheat belt.

Community Committeeman Beecraft told the farmers assembled in the "Red Schoolhouse" that the big, broad objectives of the whole program are as follows:

EXHIBITS

Osborne

Osborne County the champion pond builders of Kansas had an exhibit featuring their extensive pond program. The map of their county showing location of all ponds constructed under the program was exhibited at the recent Western Region Conference in Spokane. It attracted much favorable comment. Two states have asked for a picture of this map. Osborne County is also forging rapidly ahead with the crop insurance program as illustrated by another part of their exhibit. Then to show that ponds are not the only practice in this county, they have a chart showing progress being made on good soil building practices adapted to this area. Pictures illustrate what they are doing.

Ottawa

Soil-building practices for 1940 were well distributed over Ottawa County. This is clearly shown in their exhibit which includes a map showing the location of all practices. Their pictures are especially good. There is one picture panel on ponds, another showing soil saving dams and springs developed, and a third shows tree planting.

Greenwood

Bigger and better stock water ponds for the Flint Hills area is the theme of the Greenwood County exhibit. With pictures they show that they are building this kind of stock water reservoirs in Greenwood County. The pictures also demonstrate proper pond construction methods.

McPherson

Be sure to look at the McPherson County exhibit. They have arranged two farms, one representing a well-balanced farm program under AAA, the other just the old hit or miss type of farming with no attention paid to soil conservation or balanced production. They show the inevitable result of these two types of farming. On the farm under the AAA program, there is legumes; the pasture is in good shape, and the fields are not washing. There is a pond to provide stock water and the whole farm is not planted to soil depleting crops. The other farm is just the opposite. Soil depleting crops are on most of the land. The fields are eroded and the pasture is in bad shape. Then with a series of charts, they show how crop insurance protects McPherson county wheat farmers. Another chart shows the results of farm planning.

Shawnee

Shawnee County has a chart listing their soil building practices for 1940. The figure for alfalfa seeding is 3,099 acres; other legumes show a total of 6,031 acres. 18,345 acres has been contoured in Shawnee County in 1940. The other practices listed on the chart show figures comparable with these. To go with the chart is a fine set of pictures illustrating these practices.

1. A program which enables farmers to produce abundantly.
2. Enables us to build and maintain soil fertility.
3. Provides for an abundant and balanced supply of farm commodities for the consumer.
4. Increases the national income of the farmer.

Then he told the crowd about the provisions of the farm program that are going to make it possible for us to obtain these objectives. These provisions are as follows:

1. Agricultural Conservation Program
 - (a) Crop reduction through acreage allotments
 - (b) Soil conserving payments.
2. Parity program provides for parity payments on farm commodities.
3. Crop insurance program which insures farmers against losses.
4. Commodity loan program which permits a farmer to obtain a reasonable loan value on his products.
5. We also have other programs such as sugar and cotton mattress, which have their place.
6. Marketing quotas which are perhaps the most important are now in effect on cotton and tobacco and will probably be offered to the wheat farmer this spring.

Just as soon as possible all counties will be sent complete outlines of the talks given in the "Little Red Schoolhouse" meeting. We will get them in the mail early next week.

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THE GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The discussion group sessions proved to be a lively affair in every committee. Committeemen evidently came to Salina prepared to make suggestions for furthering the program here in Kansas.

Group I--CROP INSURANCE. This group agreed unanimously that crop insurance was a definite part of the AAA program, and can be best administered when considered as such. There is no use for a fellow to try to sell crop insurance unless he is sold on crop insurance himself. That was another point on which there was unanimous approval. Enthusiastic community committeemen make fine salesmen, but the group was agreed "it is all right to select other men in the county with a special ability along this line." "It takes more than a meeting to sell most farmers on crop insurance," said one of the committeemen, and he added, "the rest of the family and the banker friend can be a very potent influence in encouraging most farmers to take out a policy."

Group II--THE COMMODITY SITUATION AND LOANS PROGRAM. Marketing quotas are going to go over in Kansas in a big way--that was the opinion of the committeemen in this group. After farmers understand the wheat situation there should be little doubt about the way they vote.

This subject also came up for much discussion in the educational discussion group. They also were optimistic about the prospect of quotas carrying, but agreed that it was going to be up to us to do a thorough job of education.

Committeemen are well satisfied with the loan program as it is, with minor changes. The group was unanimous in its opinion that all present commodity loans be continued.

Group III--SPECIAL PROGRAMS IN OPERATION IN DESIGNATED AREAS IN KANSAS. The special programs are doing the job that was intended when they were put into operation--that of getting more soil conservation. From the tone of the discussion farmers like this idea of being paid only for carrying out soil-building practices. Who is it that said farmers were in these programs just for the payments? One committee-man spoke up and said, "we feel that it is a tailor-made program for our area." Another remarked, "it eliminated the problem of wind erosion in southwest Kansas." A fellow from another part of the State jumped up and said, This special program of ours is bringing about a greater percentage of legumes on nearly every cooperating farm in the county."

Group IV--ADMINISTRATION. What this group lacked in eloquence they made up for in rapid-fire debate. Farm supervisors came in for a heavy share of the discussion. They are going to have some constructive suggestions to make at the general session. We feel that Triple A is pretty well administered in Kansas, but we are always ready for improvements.

Group V--THE EFFECT OF YIELDS AND ACREAGE ALLOTMENTS AS NOW ESTABLISHED IF MARKETING QUOTAS GO INTO EFFECT. We must be getting somewhere in this matter of unity, at least here in Kansas, for one of the outstanding features of this discussion was the fact that all counties felt that their yields and allotments were satisfactorily enough established to stand the test of marketing quotas. No county in the group thought that their yields should be completely revised. They voted to continue the 10 per cent limitation on the increase or decrease of yields. It was felt that this was necessary in order to avoid unfair extremes in yields between individual farms within one county. It was the general idea of all persons entering the discussion that the spread in yields between farms should not be an extreme high and an extreme low. It seems to be the trend of most counties to pull the yields closer together between individual farms.

Group VI--BEST WAYS OF ACQUAINTING FARMERS AND BUSINESSMEN WITH THE AAA PROGRAM. If the lively discussion in this group is any indication of things to come, the AAA educational program in Kansas is going to be put over in a big way in 1941. This group realized their responsibility and got down to the business of making specific recommendations early in the session. Briefly here's a few of them: 1. Get acquainted with your newspaper editor at once if you have not already done so--but do more than this. Tell him the facts about the wheat situation; make him see where we would be if quotas are voted down. Let him know where you stand, and then see that he gets some good AAA stories. 2. Make the community meetings interesting as well as educational.

You'll be told how to do this when the complete report from this committee is given. 3. Don't neglect the farmer-businessmen meetings. Some fine ones are being held in Kansas. 4. Remember the radio station if there is one in your county or close by.

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In this letter we have only endeavored to point out a few of the highlights in the group discussions.

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A V E R S E F O R T O D A Y

A sadder but much wiser man
Is Farmer J. Christopher Gann.
When asked to insure
He retorted, "What fur?"
Now hail has Gann on his can.

#

He will be told that he is not the only one who is not
satisfied with the way the Government is doing
things. That is the way it is in every country.
The only thing is that it is not in your country of
this.

In this letter we have only indicated the points and a few of
the highlights in the current discussion.

and

A 12345 678 91011

and a few more about you
in the past. I understand that
you are not happy
He is not, "I am not"
The bill has been on his way